

Little Pipe Creek Restoration Project



BACKGROUND

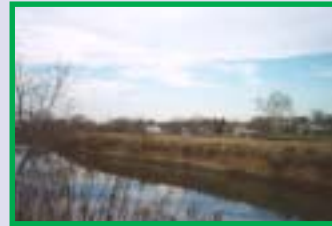
Before construction, the site was a 40 acre pasture bisected by Little Pipe Creek. Prior to 1937 (the date of the oldest aerial photo) the stream was channelized. Just prior to the restoration project, the stream was in the process of widening by moving laterally in the floodplain. These movements resulted in severe erosion of the channel banks and the loading of sediment into the creek. In addition, the in-stream habitat was severely degraded due to the lack of large woody debris and vegetative canopy, sediment deposition, and high temperatures.

Although listed as a "Use IV" waterway by state regulation (suitable for catch and release of trout), the conditions of the stream were not conducive to the development of cold-water fish habitat. Nor did it contain assemblages of desired warm water fish species. In addition, areas in the floodplain that once contained nontidal wetland had been ditched to speed up surface flow conveyance.

The goal of the restoration project was to restore and enhance approximately 40 acres of stream and riparian habitat along Little Pipe Creek in the town of Union Bridge, which is located in Carroll County, Maryland. The project included several components, including stream restoration, wetland restoration, trail design, riparian plantings and community involvement. The work was completed in the Spring of 2001.

Location: Carroll County, Town of Union Bridge, MD 75 at L. Pipe Creek

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*Before
Construction
(Eroding banks)*

*During
Construction
(Bank Grading)*



*After
Construction
(Bank
Stabilization
with Sod Mats)*

Restoration at the Reach Level

Project Benefits

- ▶ Sediment loadings into L. Pipe Creek will be reduced as a result of bank stabilization;
- ▶ Riparian buffer plantings will reduce thermal pollution to the stream by increasing shade cover;
- ▶ The reforestation of approximately 40 acres along the L. Pipe Creek stream corridor will provide habitat and enhance floodplain stability; and
- ▶ The restoration and enhancement of nontidal wetlands in the Little Pipe Creek floodplain will provide habitat for wetland dependant wildlife and water quality improvements.

Facts

- Approximately 2,700 linear feet of Little Pipe Creek stabilized;
- Over 11 acres of floodplain wetlands created;
- Approximately 3 acres of wetlands enhanced;
- Approximately 40 acres of riparian floodplain and streamside planted with native woody trees and shrubs;
- Approximately 2,100 linear feet of nature trail constructed;
- Two community planting days;
- One community environmental education day was conducted at the project site.